

age in man. It was on this page that the reviewer noted the only two expressions open to criticism in the book. He feels that the use of the term "mongols" for "mongoloid imbeciles" is rather lacking in courtesy towards our allies in the Far East, and he thinks that "primogeniture" on p. 117 is a misprint for "primiparity."

It will be seen that if these trivial points are all that he can bring up, as a reviewer, to maintain the critics' reputations, the book must indeed be excellent. And so it is. May it have wide circulation and general praise.

JOSEPH NEEDHAM.

HOUSING & POPULATION

Elsas, M. J. *Housing Before the War and After*. London. 1942. King and Staples. Pp. 69. Price 5s.

THIS latest book on housing sets out the results of an inquiry which was initiated by the Population Investigation Committee. It discusses, in the light of previous experience, the factors which will have to be taken into account in assessing the nature and magnitude of the nation's post-war housing requirements, emphasizing in particular the

influence that will be exercised upon them (as well as upon the economic structure of the country) by changes in the demographic structure of our population.

The author reviews housing and the steps taken to encourage building during the inter-war period 1918-1939, comparing what was achieved with what, according to various estimates made at the time, was actually needed. With an increasing and ageing population the tendency has been for an increase in the number of separate families, smaller in average size but each requiring separate housing accommodation. The war has introduced new factors, both physical (through destruction by enemy action) and economic; and in his assessment of our future housing needs the author takes account of these as well as of anticipated population trends (which are discussed on the basis of estimates by the Registrar-General and Dr. Enid Charles).

Although an accurate measure of the problem will be impossible until the war is over, it is all to the good that such a careful study of the factors involved should have been made now. The book should be carefully studied by everyone concerned in post-war reconstruction.

HOLROYD F. CHAMBERS.

OTHER NOTICES

Bowley, Agatha H., Ph.D. *The Natural Development of the Child*. London, 1942. Livingstone. Pp. 172. Price 8s. 6d.

DR. BOWLEY has undertaken the task of outlining in a small handbook the whole development of the child from birth to adolescence. The work is intended as a guide for parents and teachers. The author's experience as teacher, psychologist to a child guidance clinic and training college lecturer has admirably fitted her for the difficult job of putting simply and concisely material in itself complex and vast.

Each stage of childhood—babyhood, the pre-school period, the middle years of childhood and adolescence—is dealt with in order, and a genetic history of physical, intellectual and emotional development is built up. The difficulties to be expected at each age are outlined, together with

the best and most up-to-date ways of handling them. Carefully selected and very charming photographs illustrate the book, and theoretical statements are illuminated by instances from the behaviour of individual children.

Complete success in such an undertaking is impossible for any psychologist, and in a sense is more difficult to attain the better the psychologist. This is because of the nature of the material revealed by modern psychological research. The unconscious motives which govern so much of our behaviour seem to the average adult at first reading not only fantastic and absurd (even if not indecent), but also most unlikely. Stated in a sentence or two, as they must be in a short textbook, they may provoke unbelief and hostility. For this reason, and because not all technical terms are explained, the book will be most useful to students who have already had some psychological

instruction, and parents who have done some reading on the subject. For them it gives a most useful summary of developmental norms, and a reminder of the most helpful ways of handling common behaviour difficulties. For novices, if approached with an open mind, it will make a useful preliminary statement, to be followed by the wider reading indicated in the bibliography.

EVELYN LAWRENCE.

Dampier, William Cecil. *A History of Science and its Relations with Philosophy and Religion.* Third edition, revised and enlarged. Cambridge, 1942. University Press. Pp. xxiii + 574. Price 25s. net.

SIR WILLIAM DAMPIER'S *History of Science* has been out of print for some time. The new edition has been brought up to date by numerous alterations in the text and by a new section on the progress of science during the decade which has elapsed since the last edition; and the result, as the author says in the preface, is in effect a new book. It is lucidly written and excellently presents the broad lines of the development of science in their setting of philosophical and religious thought. The various branches of science are treated with uniform mastery, and the work will in its new form appeal to a wide circle of readers, scientists and educated laymen alike. We wish it a wide circulation.

H. G. HILL.

Farrow, E. Pickworth, M.A., D.Sc. *A Practical Method of Self-Analysis.* London, 1942. George Allen & Unwin. Pp. 153. Price 6s.

THE author of this book, in the course of two short and only partially successful courses of treatment by Freudian psycho-analysts, discovered that he derived considerable psychological insight and curative value from writing down the free associations started off during the analytic periods. He broke off his treatment and decided to continue treating himself by regular periods of this writing down, and over a stretch of eighteen years has done 2,800 hours of research by this method, and

produced 12,000,000 words of free associations. He holds that he has been able by this means to analyse himself as deeply as an orthodox analyst could have done, and to have gained as much mental health as by the usual method. He is sure that given persistence and determination there is no reason why anybody should not in this way become very deeply analysed. He even feels that self-analysis has certain advantages over analysis by another.

In the book Dr. Farrow describes his procedure, and records certain material from his early mental history disclosed by his self-analysis, including a detailed memory dating from the age of six months.

In comment it may be said that while both his method and his material are interesting, and while one cannot question his conviction of therapeutic benefit to himself, both his scientific claims and the general applicability of his method are seriously open to doubt. In the first place, the evidence of the whole corpus of psycho-analytic research makes it appear very improbable that he was able to uncover more than a fraction of his unconscious mental life. The essence of the repressive system is that it is unconscious, so that the individual himself cannot know how far he has removed it. As for some of the material claimed as memory of very early events, there is no warrant that a subjective certainty of its truth is proof of truth. It could not be accepted unless confirmed by much further material, discovered by other users of the method, in circumstances where the memories had some independent confirmation.

To demonstrate the value of self-analytic therapy, Dr. Farrow cannot argue from himself to the general public. He is a trained scientist, used to analysis and interpretation of facts, versed in psychological literature, and he has had two short analyses by trained analysts, even if not very successful ones. What the uninitiated would make of it all is difficult to see. However the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and in any case there is no doubt that much interesting clinical material would be revealed if many other people would try his method and submit the results to scientific study.

EVELYN LAWRENCE.